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SOURCE Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR, No 11, 1950, p 70.

SOVIET GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY TO HELP CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

In connection with the decision of the government to construct new gigantic hydroelectric stations and canals, the presidium of the Geographical Society of the USSR decided that the society should participate in the construction of these hydroelectric plants and canals. The society's existing Committee for Action in Field-Conserving Forest Plantings was reorganized into the Committee for Cooperation in the Plan for the Transformation of Nature.

The committee took concrete measures in connection with the new construction. It was decided to consult the Institute of Timber, Academy of Sciences USSR, and the Gidroproyekt (State Planning Trust for Hydroelectric Power Enterprises) for concrete problems which could be taken up by the society. The committee made the following decisions: to select and compile bibliographical material connected with the construction; to recommend that the society's library immediately select the bibliography; to review and approve materials of a physiogeographical character; to appeal to all branches, departments and members of the society to aid the new construction by selection of material and in other ways; to report at a general meeting of the members of the society on Stalin's 2-year plan for the transformation of nature; to report on physiogeographical conditions in the regions of hydroelectric construction; and finally to have Professor M. E. Tkachenko give his report "Forest Economy and the Construction of New Volga Hydroelectric Power Stations."

The presidium of the society approved all measures taken by the Committee for Cooperation and assigned it the task of coordinating all indicated works. Simultaneously, it was proposed that the Saratov, Kuybyshev, Zapadno-Kazakhstan, and Kazan departments of the society help in construction of the Kuybyshev and Stalingrad hydroelectric stations, and that the Turkmen and Uzbek branches of the society help in the construction of the Main Turkmen Canal.

The presidium decided that:

1. The society will take an active part in the physiogeographical and economic study of the regions of the new construction, after receiving preliminary instructions from the proper organs of the Academy of Sciences USSR.

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2. The work of the society should include the execution of the reports:
"Stalin's Great Constructions," by S. V. Kalesnik; "Irrigation in the Light of
the New Decrees of the Council of Ministers USSR," by E. S. Kancher; and "Uti-
lizing Aerial Photographs to Study Regions Where Construction of Hydroelectric
Stations and Afforestation of Steppes and Wastelands Are Being Conducted," by
the Commission on Aerial Photography.

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